2.00 P.M.

SHRI N. JOTHI: If this is the answer ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHIV RAJ V. PATIL: You can say that my answer is not satisfactory, I can say that your question is irrelevant.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (**श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी**) : मंत्री महोदय जी, बहुत – बहुत धन्यावाद । Hon. Members, now we take up the next Business of the House which is the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill; 2005. The time allotted for it is one hour. Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh to move the Motion for consideration of the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2005. Mr. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, Special Mentions were to be taken up after it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Special Mentions will be taken up after it. This is what the Chairman has said. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR. Sir, kindly allow it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): I appreciate it. But I have to go by the directives of the hon. Chairman. ...*(Interruptions)*... My hands are totally tied. Special Mentions will be taken up after this, if this finishes by 2.30 p.m. Mr. Minister.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2005—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962, be taken into consideration."

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Shri Dipankar Mukherjee.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, am I the only Member on it?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): No; we have three more Members who have to speak on it.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I will not take much of your time. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill says that in the changed scenario and for bringing professionalism to the board of Directors of the CWC, and to have access to capital at better and more competitive terms and in view of the sizeable investments required to create, augment and improve storage infrastructure, there is a need to allow Warehousing Corporations. I have no quarrel with it. It is a very good objective. And, for that, you want to have three more independent Directors and the financial involvement is Rs. 15 lakhs. Sir, I have certain queries to be clarified by the hon. Minister. अगर एक्सपैंशन कर रहे हैं , 3 डायरेक्टर्स चाहिए , हर साल 15 लाख चाहिए, अगर एक्सपैंशन हो रहा हैं, तो यह कैसे हुआ कि जब पिछली सरकार थी, सेंट्रल वेयर हाऊसिंग कारपोरेशन में 11 हजार वर्कर्स थे, वीआरएस से 4 हजार रेडयूस हो गए । अभी शायद ये करीब 6 हजार है । मैं सुन रहा हूं कि वहां का जो मैनेजमेंट है, वह इस बारे में प्रसाय कर रहा है कि और कितना वीआरएस दिया जाए । यह एक – दूसरे से सिंक्रोनाइज़ नहीं हो रहा है । एक्सपैंशन होने की जरूरत है, एक्सेस टू कैपिटल जरूरी है, भूमि रखना है, तो फिर सेपरेशन ऑफ मैन – पॉवर क्यों इतना रेडयूस हो रहा था ? मैं दो – चार एक्ज़ाम्पल भी देना चाहता हूं । Professionalism is required I can say that प्रोफेशनलिज़्म की बहुत जरूरत है । मेरे पास एक नेल्लोर का एक्ज़ाम्पल है । सेंट्रल वेयर हाउस के गोडाउन में 100 परसेंट स्टोरेज होता था । वह शायद रेलवे के पास था । उसको एफसीआई के गोडाउन में शिफ्ट किया गया, एफसीआई ने 20 किलोमीटर दूर अपना गोडाउन बनाया । अब इसकी तहकीकात कीजिए कि यह किसलिए हुआ था, किस पॉलिटिकल इंटरेस्ट से फूड कारपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया ने इसे 20 किलोमीटर दुर बनाया और 100 परसेंट स्टोरेज जो है ...(**व्यवधान**)... इसका स्पेसिफिक रिजन बाद में बता

दीजिएगा। उसका 100 परसेंट स्टोरेज फूड कारपोरेशन के गोडाउन में होने लगा, सेंट्रल वेयर हाउस के गोडाउन में नहीं। इसका इम्पैक्ट क्या हुआ ? रेलवे को 20 किलोमीटर ट्रक से उस एफसीआई गोडाउन में लाना पड़ता था। यह क्या बात है ? कौन से प्रोफेशनल सिस्टम से यह हुआ ? इतने प्राइवेट लोगों को, you want expansion. In many States, सेंट्रल वेयर हाउस का जो गोडाउन है, उसका इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जा रहा है, जबकि प्राइवेट गोडाउन को लगातार इंक्रेजमेंट किया जा रहा है। अगर एक्सपैंशन के उद्देश्य से ही यह करना है, very good, और अभी जो आपके इकॉनोमिक डेवलमेंट के लिए एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोडयूस के लिए इसकी जरूरत भी है, लेकिन I find something very wrong in the vision of the management of the Central Warehousing Corporation. ये कारपोरेट प्लांस क्या है, इनके बारे में हम लोगों को बताया जाए ? आप आज हमें यह एश्योरेंस दीजिए कि अगर बोर्ड ऑफ डायरेक्टर्स का एक्सपैंशन हो रहा है, एडीशनल डायरेक्टर्स हो रहे है, तो वीआरएस नही चलेगा। इम्प्लाइज़ का रिडक्शन और डायरेक्टर्स का बढ़ाना , यह नहीं चल सकता। The objective must be this. If you are increasing the godowns, if you are increasing capacities, how are you reducing the manpower? There is already a reduction of forty per cent in the manpower. What exactly do you have in mind? उनके कैपिटल रिजर्व की क्या पोजीशन है? वह कैपिटल के लिए मार्केट में जाना चाहते है या उन के पास रिजर्व काफी है, इकिवीटी काफी है? अगर डैट कम है, तो डैट मार्केट में जा सकते है, नहीं तो कहां जाएंगे? कैपिटल मार्केट में जाएंगे या डैट मार्केट में जाएंगे? क्या उन की पोजीशन है ? आखिर वह मिनी रत्ना है? आप एक एश्योरेंस दीजिएगा कि मैन – पावर रिडक्शन के बारे में आप से बात न करें और सी. डबल्यू. सी. के चैयरमेन वगैरह कुछ हैं, जब पिछले 6 सालों में उन की सरकार थी ; they were doing a lot of things in the name of liberalization. लिबर्लाइजेंशन, प्रोफेशनलाइजेशन का मतलब यह नही है। You must increase efficiency. अब एफीसिएंसी के बहुत से पैरामीटर्स होते है। But some of the people in the Central Warehousing Corporation, जो टॉप बॉसेस है, चेयरमेन है, वे समझते है कि लिबर्लाइजेशन का मतलब एक ही है कि मेन – पावर रिडक्शन हो। Manpower rationalization is also a part, but that is not the only part. There are other issues involved in improving professionalism. इसलिए मैं इस मामले में चाहूंगा कि इस का प्रोफेशनलाइजेशन हो, डायरेक्टर्स बढ़े, for utilizing the data, those productive assets. ये एसेटस आप के गोडाउंस है और जो आप का मैन – पावर है, उस का बैटर यूटिलाइजेशन हो without idling of manpower, without idling of assets. VRS is not the solution for bringing in professionalism. This must be born in the mind by the management. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I support the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2005 *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, I do not want any running-commentary, especially from Mr. Jairam Ramesh.

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu): Just imagine, what happens when you yourself make running commentaries while other Members speak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): The sides are changing!

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I speak only with the permission of the Chair, not without the Chair's permission.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Defence is coming from unexpected quarters! *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI V NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir, this is a progressive Bill. The Warehousing Corporation is a *Miniratna,* one of the public sector undertaking companies. The object of bringing in this Bill is to bring professionalism among the Board of Directors and also, to allow the Warehousing Corporation to raise funds.

The hon. Member, Shri Dipankar Mukherjee, was referring to the labour issues. It is a matter of concern for everybody. Nearly one-third of the work force either proceeded on Voluntary Retirement; some of them were retrenched. Now, on the one hand, the Warehousing Corporation is utilising private godowns, you are using transport of private operators and you are employing people, on the other hand, you are retrenching people, or, people are proceeding on voluntary retirement, you are putting people on the backfoot.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, when you are going in for an expansion programme, and you are going to build new godowns from the funds that you are mobilising, why do you retrench workers, or force them to go on Voluntarty Retirement? Those people could be accommodated there. You are aware that nowadays, it is very difficult for people to gain employment. Those people were working there, why do you want to retrench those employees or force them to go on Voluntary Retirement. Would like to know this from the hon. Minister?

Secondly, Sir I went through the records. I found that more than Rs. 40 crore worth of material has been damaged; foodgrains have been damaged. You have got a new system for storage; you are using scientific methods for storing foodgrains. But this happened in spite of that. I would read out from the report that I have with me. This was a reply to a Parliament question.

The hon. Minister said in his reply in this august House that in 2002-03, about 1.35 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were damaged and the value of the damage assessed was Rs 41.09 crores. Then, in 2003-04, the damage was 0.76 lakh toones, amounting to a loss of Rs. 29.19 crores. In 2004-05, it was 0.97 lakh tonnes and the value of damage amounted to Rs. 40.28 crores. Therefore, foodgrains worth Rs. 40 crore have been damaged, and this is in spite of the fact that you have been using scientific methods and using chemicals for the purpose of preserving consignment. Sir, the most important point which I would like to tell the hon. Minister is the procurement policy of the Food Corporation of India is a matter of concern for farmers in various States. Take the case of Southern States. I come from Karaikal region. It is a granary of our area. It is a place of maximum paddy cultivation. The Food Corporation of india go for procurement only in Tamil Nadu and bring the consignment to Karaikal. In Thanjavur, they opened godowns for the purpose of procurement and brought the consignment to our place. Our farmers are having stock and they want to sell it to the Food Corporation of India, but their claim is being ignored. They are taking their produce fifty or sixty kilometres away by spending money on transportation. This is also the position in other areas. Sir, when the private traders come, they purchase foodgrains at the time of harvesting. But the Food Corporation of India comes for the purpose of procuring foodgrains only after several requests by the farming community. But, by that time, they sell their consignment at distress price to private traders. Therefore, this is one of the important areas where I want the hon. Minister to consider because at the time of harvesting, the Food Corporation of India should be at the doors of the farmers to procure the consignment. Unauthorised private traders enter into the market and purchase the consignment, but the Food Corporation of India go in the last minute and get only 10 per cent of the total produce. By that time, the farmers are at large. So, the State*is getting about 10 per cent. Therefore, the

Food Corporation of India should help farmers to avoid transportation expenses, go to the nearer area and then get the consignment. Secondly, they should go at the appropriate time for getting the consignment of foodgrains from the farming community instead of allowing the private operators to get the products at a lesser price, and the farmers should not suffer at this cost. These are the three issues which I want the hon. Minister to respond. With these words, I support the Bill which is a verty noble idea because this is one of the *mini ratnas* which has to be further developed. And, for heaven's sake, don't go for retrenchment of employees or dont's allow them to go on voluntary Retirement. When you have new godowns, accommodate employees and labour in those godowns so that labour can also be protected. Thank you.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA(West Bengal): Sir, thank you, very much. This is a small amendment, in fact. It is an amendment; it is not a Bill as such. I have some limited comments on this amendment moved by the hon. Minister. Well, I entirely agree with what Shri Dipankar Mukherjee has said and the concern that has been expressed by my friend, Shri Narayanasamy, particularly about the procurement and storage of foodgrains. Even though it is not related to this Bill, but it is a very important issue and I am happy that Shri Narayanasamy has pondered over this. I am thankful to him and I must express my gratitude. Even though it is out of place - however, it is not totally out of place - but is a very, very important issue that is to be discussed in this and it is a very important issue to which he has drawn the attention. I would like to submit, with all humility, that in this country of ours, particularly after 1991, many people have started believing that professionalisation and privatisation are synonyms. This has become a belief of some of the people. Unfortunately, I would just remind them that in this poor country of ours there are more than a few lakhs of private small and medium industries which have been closed down due to mismanagement. I prevail upon the hon. Minister that kindly do not go by this paradigm that privatisation and professionalisation are same. I am a littlre spectic, so kindly bear with me. Secondly, J would like to say that the psyche which is prevailing in this country is a problem. In the name of rationalisation, reduction takes place. Rationalisation means reduction. Rationalisation and reduction have become synonyms. Privatisation and professionalisation have become synonyms. Where

we talk of rationalisation, we find that ultimately it leads to reduction, reduction of manpower. In the case of Central Warehousing Corporation, a Mini-Ratna company, one of the objectives of establishing this public sector enterprise was also to promote the employment opportunities. It was not only a profiteering organisation but also with the objective of promoting employment opportunities in this poor country of ours. But, unfortunately, with the advent of this neo-liberalisam and globalisation, this has become a phenomenon. Unfortunately, this has become a phenomenon. Time and again, we have said it is a jobless growth, it is a doctrine of jobless growth and voiceless growth, and, we find that joblessness has taken place in Central warehouses. In Central warehouses, the joblessness has taken place. More than 6000 people have been forced to accept VRS. What has happened? There has been no dearth of work. In fact, the regular employees have been converted into contract employees. Regular employees have been disposed off and contract employees have replaced them. The perennial jobs are being done by the contract workers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister in his reply, if possible, please tell the House, how many employees have been forced to accept VRS. Of course, you will not accept the words, 'forced to accept' because you are also not responsible. The earlier regime was vigorously promoting this neo-liberalisation; privatisation, globalisation and other things, and they have only reduced the number of employees in Central warehouses to the extent of more than 6,000 employees. *(Interruptions)* of course, underemployment is a problem, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many persons are being employed now as contract labourers in the Central warehouses in different places of the country. Would you please note it down? How many persons are being employed by the contractors? A Number of godowns and warehouses have been privatised; a number of godowns and warehouses have been given to the private houses, private organisations for running them. This is number 3.

Number 4, in my limited intervention, I will say that I am noting a very peculiar trend in the bureaucracy of this country. They will themselves decide that after their retirement they would continue to be in a better job either in the same organisation, or, by manipulating, in some other organisation. This is the trend. The bureaucrats who have

mismanaged the Central Warehousing Corporation activities, who have forced this company, even though it is a Mini-Ratna company, to resort to a huge, vigorous reduction in employment, are now trying to frame the Bill where it is being written, "permit salaried officials of the Central Warehousing Corporation to be appointed as Directors in the Board of Directors", so, after their retirement, they will continue as Directors. *(Interruptions).* No, no. I do not know. I have got a doubt. I do not know. I am just trying to express my doubt. Sir, I have written several letters even to the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji that this is the condition in the Planning Commission; this is the condition in the Health Department that before retirement officials are appointed in some other positions so that they do not reitre and continue for another five years, six years, seven years and like that. This is a very dangerous trend. Let us exercise *...(Interruptions...* Mr. Jairam Ramesh, kindly bear with me. I will listen to you afterwards, Sir.

I would like to utter a word of caution that if this blanket permission is given to the officials to appoint themselves as Directors of the company, it may lead to a situation where before two years of reitrement, they will appoint themselves as Directors and will continue for another three years additionally. So, unfortunately, this is the peculiar trend prevailing in this country of ours, to which I am having objection. What is happening? Organisations like these. Mini-Ratna or Navratna organisations can develop only by inducting experts, only by inducting real professionals, the professionals who mean proficiency. That part will be closed. That is one. Secondly, the avenues of vertical promotion may also be closed. Therefore, an extreme caution has to be taken. I would like to know from the Minister what is the safeguard that he is envisaging, what is the safeguard in this clause, what amendment he is proposing in the Statement of Objects and Reasons for their betterment. Sir, while concluding, I would say, let us be very careful about the financial autonomy of the public sector undertakings. Only the other day, in reply to my question, the hon. Finance Minister in the written answer replied that the PSEs have been given commercial autonomy. Now, commercial autonomy and financial autonomy is not one and the same thing. For the financial autonomy, or, for the financial decisions, these PSEs have to look at the bureaucrats, upto Joint Secretary level. So. whether this is creating a problem in the development or in the running of the PSEs

or not. That has to be debated. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to see whether, in the real sense of financial autonomy, have taken a decision, not commerical autonomy, not the autonomy of sharing decisions, but autonomy of the financial decisions can be given to the Miniratna companies and Navratna companies for their better output and also for their development. With this few words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Thank you, Sir. When I read the title of this Bill, The Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2005, it gave me a large number of hopes. Having gone through it, I find that it does not even begin to address the problems that are posed by economic liberalisation. In the context of economic liberalisation, I can understand, the Government is trying to bring in professionalism, as far as the Board is concerned. That part is okay. Then, they try to give the Board the authority to seek capital in the financial markets. *...(Interruptions)...* And, later on, they also permit the employees to be taken on the Board of Directors. So far, so good, as far as the economic liberalisation goes, I have no problems with that. But,is that enough? In the Warehousing Bill, it was expecting that in the context of liberalisation, much more would be done. There were reports in the newspapers that the Government is working on a scheme where the warehouses, on receipt of commodities, make an advance of 70 per cent to the farmers and the warehousing receipts will be treated as negotiable instruments. That would permit the Government to replace, by and large, the present system of support prices which is becoming extremely cumbersome, onerous and wasteful. Since replacing the minimum support price mechanism is not one of the stated objectives of this Bill, I have not brought out a formal amendment; I would only like to suggest to the hon. Agriculture Minister "you have only begun to address the questions, the mere border issues, that are involved with the economic liberalisation. What is necessary is that the Board should have the authority to issue warehousing receipts which would be treated as negotiable instruments so that the Food Corporation of India and other structures that have been constructed over the years for the support price mechanism, can be done away with. Thank you, very much.

SHRIMATI N.P DURGA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I rise to support the Bill moved by the hon. Minister, Shri Sharad Pawarji, to amend the

Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962. Sir, the aim is that the CWC has adapted itself to the changing situation in view of the liberalisation and growth in the economy, particularly, looking at the investment required to create, augment and improve the storage and other infrastructures in the country. Sir, it is a simple Bill which is proposing the induction of three functional Directors on the Board of the CWC. Here, I have a point to make. On the one hand, you are saying that you want to professionalise the Board of Directors of the CWC and, on the other, you are making salaried officials of the CWC as Directors on the Board. I fail to understand how *babus* of any corporation can be professionals and be there on the Board as Directors, especially in a Corporation like this which deals with scientific grading, packaging, storage, preservation and certification of commodities. I request the hon. Minister to clarify this point. I think this exercise is part of the holistic exercise to put in place an appropriate market infrastructure to ensure remunerative price for farmers' produce without any intervention by the Governemnt. Sometime back, there was a proposal to introduce Warehousing Development and Regulation Bill to streamline and upgrade warehousing infrastructure in the country. I wish to know as to what has happened to that, and by when the Government of India is going to bring it before Parliament for its consideration.

The next point is, the CWC targeted to construct 9.37 lakh metric tons of additional storage capacity in the Tenth Plan. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the total storage capacity so far constructed, and whether the Ministry will achieve the goal of 9.37 lakh metric tons by the end of the Tenth Plan.

Finally, last time when the Parent Act was amended, a new Section —Section 24B(1)—was introduced to enable the State Warehousing Corporations to enter into joint venture only with the CWC. But, when it comes to the CWC, you are allowing it to enter into joint venture with anyone in the world. The SWC does not have such liberty. The main aim of the warehouses in the country is for the purpose of warehousing of agricultural and other notified commodities, scientifically and by using the latest technology available in the world. On the one hand you are allowing the CWC to have joint ventures with other companies, etc., in the world, and, on the other, you are denying the same opportunity to the SWC to bring in strategic strength of capital and technology so as

to work effectively. A letter has also been written by the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh on 14th June, 2002, to this effect to the hon. Minister. I request the hon. Minister to do justice to SWCs, and allow them to enter into joint venture with any company in the world to get technology, etc.

With these words, Sir, I conclude my views on the Bill and request the hon. Minister to clarify the points raised by me. Thank you.

श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, धन्यवाद । यह एक बहुत छोटा – सा विधेयक है, लेकिन यह जितना छोटा है, उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण भी है । आज किसानों की सबसे बडी समस्या यह है कि उनके खेत में जो पैदावार होती है, जो उत्पादन होता है, उसे सही समय पर, सही जगह पर रखे जाने की बहुत बडी समस्या है, साथ ही साथ उसे उसके उत्पादन का सही मूल्य मिल जाए, यह भी एक महत्वपूर्ण बात है । आज हम यह देखते है कि किसान अपने खेतों में जो अनाज पैदा करता है, जब फसल आती है तब बाजार में उसकी कीमत गिरने लगती है और जब उसके खेत में पैदा किया हुआ माल बाजार से चला जाता है, उसके पश्चात उसकी कीमत बढ़ जाती है, इसलिए यह जरूरी है कि भंडारण की अधिक व्यवस्था हो । किसान अपने उत्पाद को भंडार गृहों में रख सकें, इसके लिए जरूरी है कि ज्यादा भंडार गृह बनाए जाएं । मैं समझता हूं कि यह एक अच्छा प्रयास है । कृषि मंत्रालय के माध्यम से सरकार यह कोशिश कर रही है कि भंडारण गृहों की संख्या बढ़े और उसमें किसान के माल को रखने के लिए इंतजाम अवश्य हो और साथ ही साथ इस बात कि भी चिंता हो कि उनका माल ठीक रहे । इसके लिए जरूरी है कि उसे वैज्ञानिक तरीके से रखा जाए, वह खराब न हो और किसानों को उसका पर्याप्त लाभकारी मूल्य मिल जाए, इसकी चिंता अवश्य ही सरकार को करनी चाहिए और इस दिशा में यह एक अच्छा कदम हो सकता है ।

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हमने देखा है कि पिछले कुछ वर्षो से लगातार किसान, जिसने अपने खेत में बहुत परिश्रम करके अनाज पैदा किया और देश को अनाज के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर बनाया, बहुत दुखी है, कर्जदार है । इसका परिणाम यह होता है कि उचित समय पर जब उसके उत्पाद के लिए मूल्य मिलना चाहिए, तब उसे सस्ते मूल्य पर अपने माल को बेचना पड़ता है और जब अधिक पैसा मिलता है, तब तक वह माल व्यापारियों के हाथ में पहुंच जाता है । इसलिए ऐसी व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए जिससे किसानों को पर्याप्त मात्रा में लाभकारी मूल्य मिल सके और इसके लिए यह जरूरी है कि गांव – गांव में भंडारण करने से जल्दी से जल्दी , अधिक से अधिक ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में इसका विस्तार हो, सरकार इसकी चिंता अवश्य करे । इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ, मैं अपनी बात को समाप्त करता हूं, धन्यवाद ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Now, Mr. Minister to reply.

श्री अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से इस बिल पर जिन माननीय सदस्यों ने हिस्सा लिया उनको ह्रदय से धन्यावाद करता हूं और उन्होंने जो बहुमूल्य सुझाव दिए है, उनका भी मैं स्वागत करता हूं। जहां तक यह अमेंडमेंट बिल लाने का सवाल था, यह जो सी. डब्लू. सी. का प्रजेंट सैटअप है वह सैक्शन – 17 के Agricultural Produce Act, 1956 के द्वारा सैटअप किया गया था जिसे बाद में रिपील करके वेयरहाऊसिंग ऐक्ट 1962 में लाया गया जो वर्तमान स्वरूप में में है। उसके बाद से इस ऐक्ट में लगभग 42 – 43 साल हो गए जिसमें कोई संशोधन नहीं हुआ है। सी. डब्लू. सी. भारत सरकार का एक लघु प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान है और मुझे यह बताने में गौरव की अनुभूति होती है कि जब से सी. डब्लू. सी. बना है, अपने प्रारम्भिक 9 साल के बाद, यह हमेशा से भारत सरकार को डिविडेंड देता रहा है और अभी तक लगभग 96 करोड़ रुपए से ज्यादा का डिविडेंड सी. डब्लू. सी. ने भारत सरकार को दिया है। जबकि भारत सरकार ने अंशदान के रूप में 38 – 39 करोड़ रुपए दिया है । यह जो संशोधन लाया जा रहा है, यह शायद पहले आना चाहिए था । Department of Public Enterprises, उद्योग मंत्रालय पब्लिक सैक्टर एंटरप्राइजेस के बोर्ड के गठन के संबंध में समय – समय पर निर्देश देने का काम करता रहा है। 1962 में डिपार्टमेंट आफ पब्लिक एंटरप्राइजेज ने सुझाव दिया था। इनका पहला सुझाव था कि full – time functional Director बोर्ड में रखें जाएं, डायरेक्टर पर्सोनल के लिए , डायरेक्टर फाइनेंस के लिए एवं अन्य क्षेत्र जैसे प्रोडक्शन , मार्केटिंग और प्रोजेक्ट प्लानिंग के। वेयरहाऊस कार्पोरेशन अमेंडमेंट बिल – 2005 में ऐसे तीन फंक्शनल डायरेक्टर, पहला डायरेक्टर फाइनेंस, दूसरा डायरेक्टर पर्सोनल और तीसरा मार्केटिंग और कारपोरेट प्लानिंग का प्रावधान बोर्ड में किया जा रहा है। गवर्नमेंट डायरेक्टर्स की संख्या बोर्ड के कुल सदस्यों की संख्या का 1/6 या दो, जो भी कम हो, उतना रहना चाहिए। नान आफिशियल डायरेक्टर्स के बारे में जो इनका सुझाव है इनकी संख्या बोर्ड के कुल सदस्यों की संख्या का कम से कम एक तिहाई होना चाहिए। इनका चयन डिपार्टमेंट आफ पब्लिक एंटरप्राइजेज के माध्यम से पैनल से तैयार किया जाएगा। पब्लिक सैक्टर मिनि रतना को आटोनोमी देने तथा प्रोफेशनल कर्य-प्रनालि लाने के लिये डीपाट्मैन्ट आफ़ पब्लिक एनटरप्राइजर्स ने 1957 में निर्नय लिया कि वैसे पब्लिक सैक्टर एंटरप्राइजेज जो लाभ में हैं, जो मुनाफा कमा रहे है उनको और आटोनामी दी जाए एवं उन्हें और कम्पटीटिव और एफिशिएंट बनाया जाए। यदि इस पी. ए. सी. का पिछले तीन वर्षो में किसी एक वर्ष में लाभ तीन करोड़ से अधिक हो तथा इसका नैटवर्क पाजिटिव हो तो इन्हें और आटोनोमी दी जाए। इसके तहत ये पीएसीज बिना सरकार के अप्रूवल के केपीटल एक्सपेंडीचर जैसे नए प्रोजैक्ट , माडर्नाइजेशन इत्यादि के लिए तीन सौ करोड़ या अपने नेट वर्थ,

जो भी कम हो, उतना खुद व्यय कर सकेंगे । दूसरा महत्वपूर्ण बिन्दु यह है कि ये पीएसईज जो ज्वाइंट वैंचर्स या subsidiaries भारत में स्थापित कर सकेंगे, इन पीएसईज का इनवेस्टमेंट सौ करोड़ तक या नेट वर्थ का पांच परसेंट, जो भीकम हो, तक सीमित रहेगा । ऐसे सभी ज्वाइंट वैंचर्स में उन पीएसईज़ की हिस्सा पूंजी नेट वर्थ के 15 परसेंट से अधिक नहीं होगी । इसके अतिरिक्त अन्य मामलों में भी आटोनॉमि दी जाएगी । परन्तु पीएसईज को इस तरह की आटोनॉमि देने के पूर्व सरकार ने कुछ शर्ते रखी है । पहला, इन पीएसईज़ के बोर्ड को रीस्ट्रक्चर किया जाए और इसमें कम से कम तीन नॉन आफिशियल डायरेक्टर्स हों । इन्हीं शर्तो को पूरा कर सीडब्ल्यूसी को और स्वायतत्ता देने एवं प्रोफेशनली मैनेज्ड कंपीटिटिव पीएसई बनाने हेतु यह अमैंडमेंट संबंधित बिल मैं आपके समक्ष रख रहा हूं । धारा सात एवं आठ में प्रासंगिक संशोधन का बिल में प्रावधान बिल हो । दूसरा जो महत्वपूर्ण संशोधन हम लोग लाने जा रहे हैं, वह सभी शैडयूल्ड बैंक्स से ऋण लेने हेतु संशोधन है । पूर्व में एक्ट का जो प्रावधान था, उसमें वेयरहाउसिंग कारपोरेशन केवल आरबीआई, एसबीआई एवं नेश्नलाइज्ड बैंक्स अथवा इंश्योरेंस कम्पनीज, इनवेस्टमेंट ट्रस्ट अथवा फाइनेंशियल इंस्टीटयूशन जो सैंट्रल गवर्नमेंट द्वारा अप्रूव्ड हो, उसी से ऋण ले सकता था । संशोधन में प्रावधान में यह प्रावधान किया जा रहा हैं कि सभी शैडयूल्ड बैंकों से ऋण लेने में वेयरहाउसिंग कारपोरेशन सक्षम हो, इसके लिए आरबीआई , मिनिस्टरी आफ फाइनेंस, बैंकिग डिविजन के साथ 25 अप्रैल , 2005 को बैठक करके सर्वसम्मति से संशोधन हेतु निर्णय लिया गया था । इससे कंपीटिटिव ब्याज दर सीडब्ल्यूसी को ऋण उपलब्ध हो सकेगा । जहां तक दीपांकर जी की जो शंका है और आपने जो सवाल उठाया है कि वीआरएस सीडब्ल्यूसी में लागू किया गया, मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूं कि सरकार ने किसी को जबर्दस्ती वीआरएस लेने के लिए बाध्य नहीं किया है ।

श्री मनोज भट्टाचार्य : मैं मान नहीं सकता ।

डा. अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह : आपको मानना चाहिए । ...(**व्यवधान**)...

उपासभाध्यक्ष (**श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी**) **:** मंत्री जी, आप अपनी बात चालू रखिए ।

डा. अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह : महोदय, जहां कहीं भी किसी कम्पनी को सस्टेनेबल बनाना होगा, वहां पर इस तरह का प्रस्ताव पब्लिक सेक्टर में लाना होगा, यह आज के समय का तकाजा है और सीडब्ल्यूसी में, मुझे लगता है कि लगभग 1300 कर्मचारियों ने वीआरएस लिया है । ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी : एनडीए के जमाने में चार हजार सात सौ ने लिया है । 11 हजार था, 6,800 अभी है । मैं फिगर बता रहा हूं । अब बोलिए कि इसको आप बंद करेंगे । अब कोई expunction होगा, किसलिए इस बात को ...(**व्यवधान**)... आपके साथी हैं ।

डा. अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह : आप लोग तो हमेशा वाच डॉग के रूप में सरकार में है, हम लोग कहां से कर सकते है?

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी : अब काटने वाला भी आ गया है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Department of Public Enterprisesके सुझाव के अनुसार तीन फंक्शनल डायरेक्टर्स रखे जा रहे है। जहां तक वी. आर. एस. का प्रश्न है, तो जिन क्षेत्रों में मैनपावर सरप्लस था, उन्हीं क्षेत्रों में वी. आर. एस. दिया जा रहा है । कुछ कार्यो को आउटसोर्स भी किया जा रहा है, efficiency बढ़ाने एवं कॉस्ट कम करने के लिए भी वी . आर. एस. दिया जाता है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी : फिर डायरेक्टर्स भी आउटसोर्स करेंगे, बोर्ड ऑफ डायरेक्टर्स भी आउटसोर्स करके वहां से बाहर निकाल देंगे। पंद्रह लाख का ...(**व्यवधान**)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Dipankarji, let him conclude.

डा. अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह : जहां तक आपने सवाल उठाया था नेल्लोर के संबंध में, उसकी जानकारी लेकर मैं सदन को बताऊंगा । सामान्यतः सरकारी ऑफिसर्स को रिटायरमेंट के बाद डायरेक्टर नहीं रखा जाता है । संभव है कोई भी व्यक्ति किसी क्षेत्र में एक्सपर्ट के रूप में नॉन – ऑफिशियल डायरेक्टर बन सकता है।

दूसरा जो सवाल माननीय शरद जोशी जी ने उठाया है और उनकी जो चिंता है, उसके संबंध में मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि ...(**व्यवधान**)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दिनेश त्रिवेदी) : उनकी चिंता को दूर कर दीजिए।

डा. अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह : उनकी चिंता निश्चित रूप से दूर की जाएगी। अभी तीन – चार दिनों का समय बचा है और आगे, जब फिर से सदन की कार्यवाही शुरू होगी, अगला जो भी सत्र होगा, उसमें निश्चित रूप से हमारी कोशिश होगी । हमारे आदरणीय मंत्री शरद पवार साहब की कोशिश थी कि इसी सत्र में उसको पास कराया जाए, लेकिन कुछ तकनीकी गड़बडियों के चलते हम इस सदन में उसे नहीं ला पाए हैं। आगे हम निश्चित रूप से इस सदन से उसको पास कराएंगे। जो भी किसान सेंट्रल वेयरहाउसिंग में अपना सामान रखेंगे, उनको रिसीट दी जाएगी और उसके आधार पर जो मूल्यांकन होगा, अस्सी प्रतिशत वह निश्चित रूप से बैंकों से या दूसरी संस्थाओं से उस पर ऋण ले सकते है, उसका पैसा ले सकते है , यह मैं आपको आश्वस्त करता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यू. पी. ए. गठबंधन की सरकार जब आई थी, मुझे याद है कि अपने पहले प्रेजेंटेशन में आदरणीय शरद पवार साहब की चिंता थी और अधिकारियों से उन्होंने पूछा था कि सेंट्रल वेयरहाउसिंग कारपोरेशन का मुनाफा कैसे कम हो रहा है पिछले दो – तीन सालों में ? महोदय, 2001 से लेकर 2004 तक, हम लोगों के आने से पहले यह मुनाफा 90 करोड़ से 22 करोड़ पर पहुंच गया था । मैं सदन को बताना चाहता हूं कि हम लोगों के अपने पहले वर्ष के कार्यकाल के बाद फिर से उस मुनाफे में बढ़ोतरी हुई है और 22 करोड़ से हम पुनः 36 करोड़ पर पहुंचे है । आगे हम आश्वस्त करते हैं कि इस संशोधन के बाद निश्चित रूप से सी. डब्ल्यू. सी. न केवल किसानों की उपज को या दूसरे बिजनेस समुदाय को फायदा पहुंचाएगा बल्कि अपना भी मुनाफा करके मिनि रत्न से भी निकलकर एक बडी कंपनी बनेगा, इन्हीं चन्द बातों के साथ मैं सदन से गुजारिश करूंगा कि ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री हरेन्द्र सिंह मलिक (हरियाणा) **:** पहले जो नुकसान हुआ है, किन कारणों से हुआ? किसने चोरी की, किसने डाका डाला, उसकी जांच कराइए और सदन को अवगत कराइए । 22 करोड़ का नुकसान तीन साल में हुआ है । वही CWC पहले से कार्यरत था, मुनाफे में था आज फिर मुनाफे में है , इन तीन सालों में ही नुकसान क्यों हुआ? पूरा सदन यह जानना चाहेगा और मैं आपसे यह अनुरोध करता हूं कि इसके संबंध में आप सभा पटल पर विवरण रखें और विस्तृत जानकारी भी दें । ...(**व्यवधान**)...

डा. अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह : सरकार किसी पर आरोप – प्रत्यारोप नही लगाना चाहती है ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री हरेन्द्र सिंह मलिक : यह आरोप ही है महोदय । ...(**व्यवधान**)... यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पति है । अगर नुकसान हुआ है तो किन कारणों से नुकसान हुआ है, हमें यह जानने का अधिकार है ।

डा. अखिलेश प्रसाद सिंह : कैसे नुकसान हुआ ...(**व्यवधान**)... हम यह बताना चाहते हैं और सदन से यह गुजारिश करते है कि यह संशोधन पारित किया जाए ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): I shall now put the motion moved by the Minister to vote. The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Qlauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIAKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): Hon. Members, we shall now take up the next business of the House, that is, the .Short Duration Discussion. *...(Interruptions)...* I have already mentioned that the Special Mentions will be taken up tomorrow. That is the directive of the hon. Chairman. Short Duration Discussion on the state of agriculture, poverty and unemployment in the country in the light of Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, Shri Sitaram Yechury. This is his maiden speech and I have the pleasure of being in the Chair when he makes his maiden speech.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

The State of Agriculture, Poverty and Unemployment in the country in the light of Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. This is my maiden speech. So, it is only natural that I will be both overawed and apprehensive about many things that I have to learn of this August House. I had come here, for the first time, only yesterday. Keeping that in mind, I am very fortunate, I think, to initiate this discussion because this is an issue which is very, very close to the heart of every Indian and it has, perhaps, very grave consequences for the future of millions of our people. A proper reading of the Mid-Term Appraisal will actually paint a picture which is not very comfortable about the state of our economy. The hon. Finance Minister is here. There have been candid admissions about many things that did not happen according to the envisaged Plan and, in fact, there is a candid admission that the GDP growth rate is, on an average, only 6.5 per cent as opposed to the target of 8.1 per cent. That is concerning the